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**TESTIMONY RE: TESTIMONY RE: Raised Bill No. 6741 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM IN  
CHILDREN'S JEWELRY**

**Committee on Children**

**February 17, 2015**

Good Afternoon, Senator Bartolemeo, Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Committee on Children.

I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), as a founding partner of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association. I am also a founding member of the National Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments and currently serve on the Steering Committee. I speak in support of: Raised Bill No.6741 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY.

We Know 1) Cadmium is a heavy metal, used in many products and has replaced lead in many children's products. Cadmium is a probable carcinogen. 2) Cadmium bio-accumulates in the body and in the environment. 3) Cadmium exposure is linked to respiratory problems, lung cancer, gastrointestinal disorders, kidney and liver problems and cardiovascular problems. If ingested, it can cause abdominal pain, cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. 4) Cadmium has a long half-life and is a cumulative toxin so children's exposure is a particular concern. "After reviewing the literature, Kjellström and Nordberg (1985) developed a range of half-times from their kinetic model of between 6 and 38 years for the human kidney and between 4 and 19

years for the human liver. These high values indicate the persistence of cadmium in the body and the importance of minimizing exposures in children to prevent long-term accumulation and toxicity. " (ATSDR Toxicological Profile of Cadmium)

We don't know what the triggers are to the incidence of disease onset. However, we are beginning to develop a strong body of scientific knowledge that establishes cause and effect, until we have multiple well-grounded research studies, we need to apply the Precautionary Principle. The Precautionary Principle asks "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically." In this context the proponent of the activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of the proof. The process of applying the precautionary principle must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must involve an examination of a full range of alternatives, including no action." (Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998).

The literature and research demonstrate the toxic effect of cadmium. Cadmium is extremely dangerous and may be lethal to children. As elected officials charged with protecting the public we serve we must always strive to protect our children, therefore. I strongly urge the committee to pass Raised Bill No. 6741 AN ACT CONCERNING CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY as one of the **first steps** in eliminating toxicity in Children's Jewelry products.

Thank you

Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN

Chair, Government Relation, Connecticut Nurses Association

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